

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PORT ST JOHNS
WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS, EASTERN
CAPE.**

FOR EOH CES

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TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	3
NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT OF 1999	7
METHOD	9
Defining significance	10
HISTORY OF PORT ST JOHNS	13
RESULTS	14
DESKTOP STUDY	14
FIELD SURVEY	16
CONCLUSION	18
REFERENCES	18

TABLE OF FIGURES

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PORT ST JOHNS WWTW	4
FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE PORT ST JOHNS WWTW	5
FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE LIBODE QUARRY	6
TABLE 1: SAHRA GRADINGS FOR HERITAGE SITES	12
FIG. 4: STUDY AREA IN 1952	15
FIG. 5: SCENIC VIEWS OF THE STUDY AREA	17

INTRODUCTION

“O R Thambo District Municipality is proposing the development of a waste water treatment works (WWTW) in Port St Johns, Eastern Cape. Port St Johns currently has a formal sewage treatment facility, albeit small, remote and inadequate for the needs of the town. The provision of a formal and compliant WWTW comprises the subject of this report. Sewage is disposed of through tinkering over a 6km distance along challenging road conditions. This creates incentives for short cuts and dangerous disposal practices with attendant human health and environmental concerns. It also places a very high operational burden on the municipality and its resources.

PSJ will require the following bulk sanitation infrastructure:

- Wastewater treatment works,
- Collector sewers,
- Sewer reticulation,
- Sewage pump stations and rising mains, and
- Electrical infrastructures for the wastewater treatment works and pump stations.

The proposed WWTW has an initial capacity of 3.5MI/day. An additional 1MI/day extension can be programmed to come into operation in 2023. The environmental sensitivity of the area in which PSJ is located necessitates that the municipality considers an activated sludge treatment system for the following reasons:

- Small footprint
- More direct control of the treatment process
- Better options for nutrient removal” (EOH CES BID 2015).

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PORT ST JOHNS WWTW

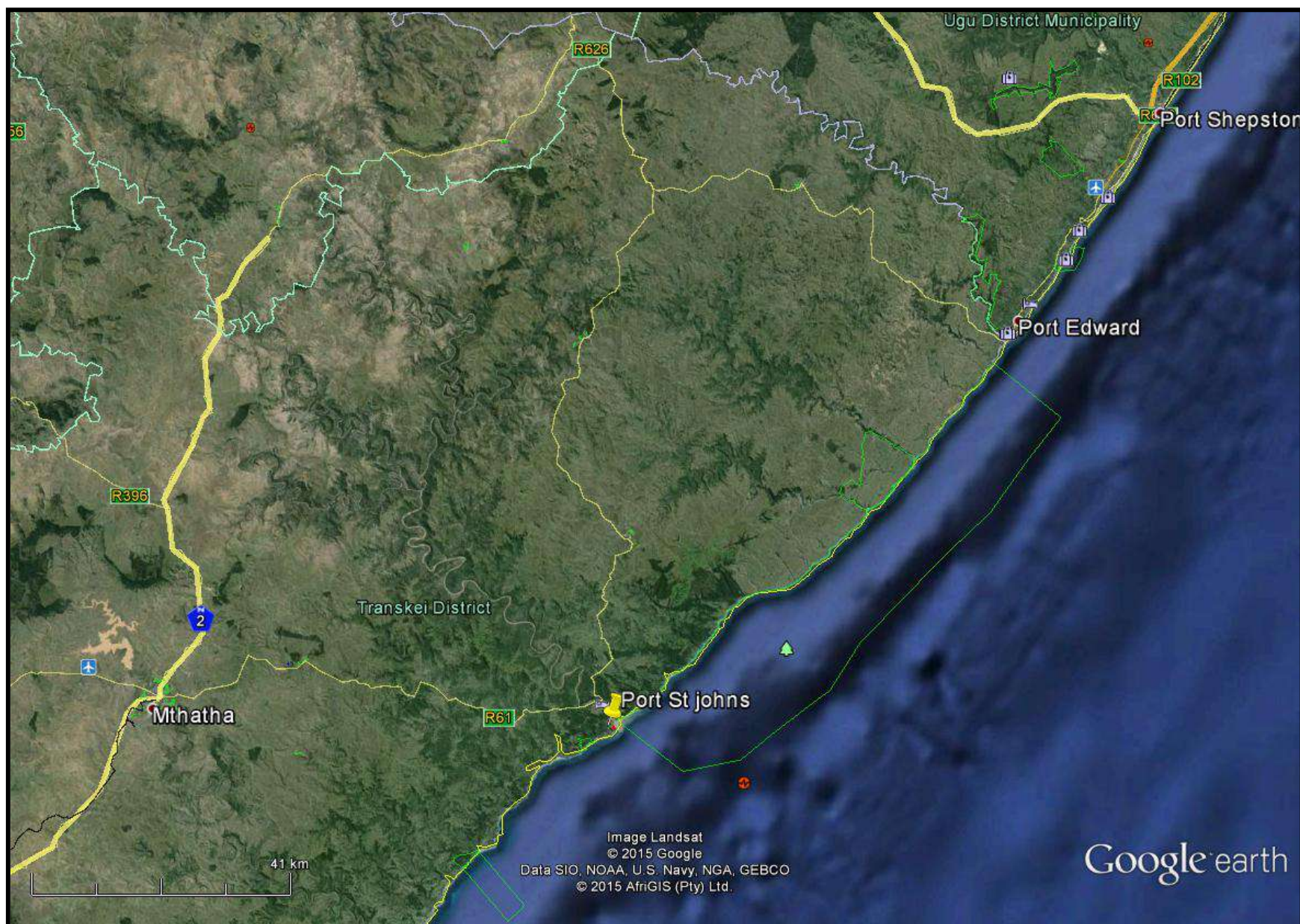
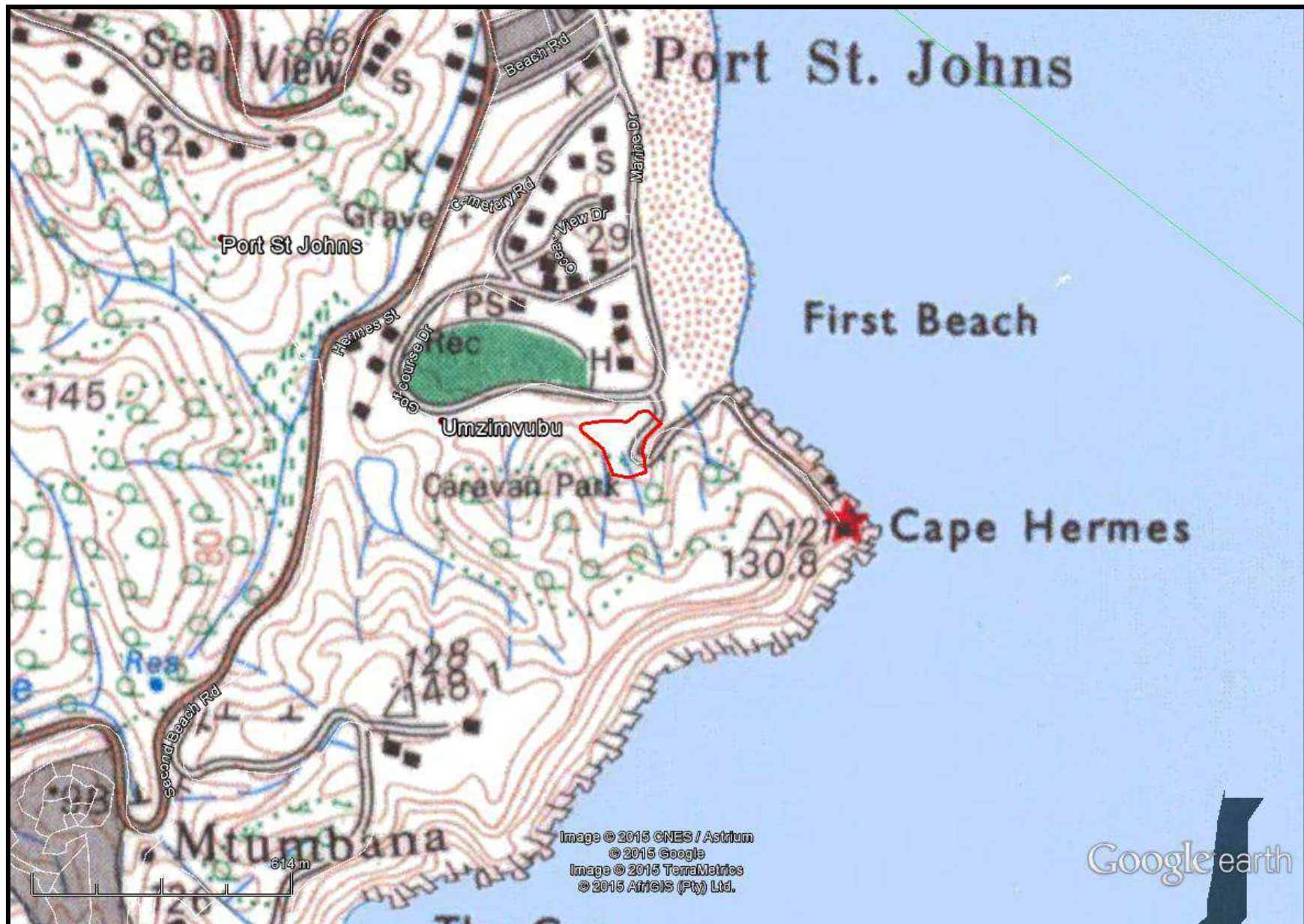


FIG. 2: AERIAL OVERVIEW OF THE PORT ST JOHNS WWTW



FIG. 3: TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE LIBODE QUARRY



NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT OF 1999

The National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 (pp 12-14) protects a variety of heritage resources. These resources are defined as follows:

1. “For the purposes of this Act, those heritage resources of South Africa which are of cultural significance or other special value for the present community and for future generations must be considered part of the national estate and fall within the sphere of operations of heritage resources authorities.
2. Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may include—
 - 2.1. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
 - 2.2. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - 2.3. Historical settlements and townscapes;
 - 2.4. Landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
 - 2.5. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
 - 2.6. Archaeological and palaeontological sites;
 - 2.7. Graves and burial grounds, including—
 - 2.7.1. Ancestral graves;
 - 2.7.2. Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - 2.7.3. Graves of victims of conflict;
 - 2.7.4. Graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - 2.7.5. Historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - 2.7.6. Other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
3. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
 - 3.1. Movable objects, including—

4. Objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - 4.1. Objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - 4.2. Ethnographic art and objects;
 - 4.3. Military objects;
 - 4.4. objects of decorative or fine art;
 - 4.5. Objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - 4.6. books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996).
5. Without limiting the generality of subsections (1) and (2), a place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value because of—
 - 5.1. Its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
 - 5.2. Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - 5.3. Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - 5.4. Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
 - 5.5. Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
 - 5.6. Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
 - 5.7. Its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
 - 5.8. Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and

5.9. sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa”

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the database that has been collated by Umlando. These database contain archaeological site locations and basic information from several provinces (information from Umlando surveys and some colleagues), most of the national and provincial monuments and battlefields in Southern Africa (<http://www.vuvuzela.com/googleearth/monuments.html>) and cemeteries in southern Africa (information supplied by the Genealogical Society of Southern Africa). We use 1st and 2nd edition 1:50 000 topographical and 1937 aerial photographs where available, to assist in general location and dating of buildings and/or graves. The database is in Google Earth format and thus used as a quick reference when undertaking desktop studies. Where required we would consult with a local data recording centre, however these tend to be fragmented between different institutions and areas and thus difficult to access at times. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium, and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips, and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone, and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually

occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?

3.2. Is it a type site?

3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

4.1. Providing information on current research projects

4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.5. Living Heritage Sites

8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

TABLE 1: SAHRA GRADINGS FOR HERITAGE SITES

SITE SIGNIFICANCE	FIELD RATING	GRADE	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION
High Significance	National Significance	Grade 1	Site conservation / Site development
High Significance	Provincial Significance	Grade 2	Site conservation / Site development
High Significance	Local Significance	Grade 3A / 3B	
High / Medium Significance	Generally Protected A		Site conservation or mitigation prior to development / destruction
Medium Significance	Generally Protected B		Site conservation or mitigation / test excavation / systematic sampling / monitoring prior to or during development / destruction
Low Significance	Generally Protected C		On-site sampling monitoring or no archaeological mitigation required prior to or during development / destruction

HISTORY OF PORT ST JOHNS

"The territory known as Pondoland or, more correctly Mpondoland, incorporated the divisions of Bizana, Libode, Ngqeleni, Port St John's, Tabankulu, and Umsikaba. In 1899 provisions of Proclamation 314 allowed for Umsikaba to be partitioned into the divisions of Lusikisiki and Flagstaff.

Although the amaMpondo were never directly involved in the border conflicts between their southern neighbours and the Cape Colony, they did not escape unscathed from the incursions of European colonialism. In 1845 Faku, Paramount Chief of the amaMpondo, signed the Maitland Treaty whereby he agreed that trade goods would not be landed on the Pondoland coast without the express permission of the British Colonial Government. In March 1861 the northern reaches of Pondoland, also known as "no-mans-land", were ceded by Faku to the Cape, and the following year were used by the Cape for Griqua resettlement. This was followed by the annexation of a tract of land between the Umzimkulu and Mtamvuna Rivers, later known as Alfred County, to the Colony of Natal in September 1865.

Following breaches of the Maitland Treaty, Sir Henry Barkly proposed that the British be allowed to locate a customs-house at the mouth of the St John's River, in return for an annual royalty of 250 pounds in 1874. The new Paramount Chief, Mqikela, refused this offer and in September 1878 the British unilaterally issued a proclamation absolving minor Mpondo chiefs from their allegiance to Mqikela, while asserting British sovereignty over the tidal estuary of St John's River. At the same time they extended their protection over the amaXesibe, a group inhabiting the northern corner of Pondoland, and incorporated their territory into Griqualand East. This blatantly transparent attempt to impose a policy of "divide and rule" over the amaMpondo was taken one step further when Nqiliso, a nephew of Mqikela's, was paid 1000 pounds in exchange for a strip of land about 3km wide extending on either side of the St John's River and 16km upstream from its estuary.

This was followed by the establishment of a port at the river mouth, including a customs house and a magistrate's court. On 15 September 1884 the sliver of land known as the Territory of Port St John's was annexed to the Cape. Such interference in the internal affairs of the amaMpondo nation caused considerable friction within the territory. Following rumours of German interest in Pondoland, the British put forward a treaty

whereby the amaMpondo formally acknowledged the loss of both Xesibe lands and Port St John's in December 1886. In addition the Rhode Valley was also ceded to the Cape. In 1888, when the British proposed the appointment of a Resident Commissioner for Pondoland, this was turned down by their new Paramount Chief, Sigcawu. Nonetheless, on 17 March 1888, the first magisterial seat was located at Ntsingixi, some 9km from Bizana. A few months later it was transferred to Bizana. Meantime internal dissension had seriously weakened Mpondo political structures and, faced with the threat of British military intervention, they surrendered their independence in March 1894.

The Territory of Pondoland was formally annexed to the Cape in September 1894. It was also divided into two parts, and its eastern portion, comprising of the divisions of Maclear, Mount Fletcher, Qumbu, and Tsolo, was ceded to Griqualand East. Presumably, the divisions of Bizana, Libode, Ngqeleni, Port St John's, Tabankulu, and Umsikaba were also proclaimed at the same time” (<http://www.sahistory.org.za/places/pondoland>).

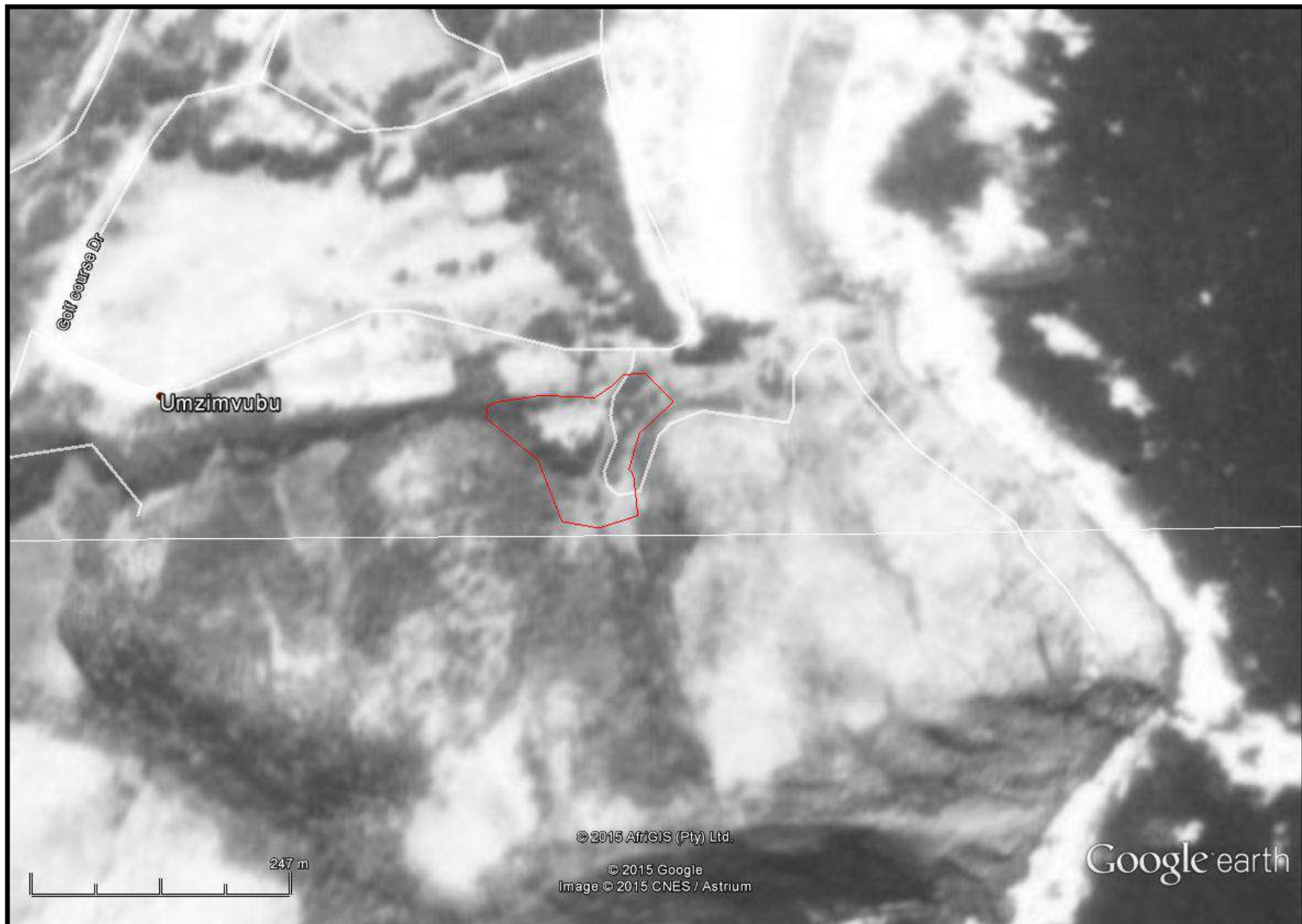
Port St Johns Town was founded about 1884. It translated from Portuguese São João, either after a ship which foundered or anchored there, or after the outline of a face, resembling that of the apostle, against the mountain. It was referred to as São Christovão before 1553 (Raper n.d.)

RESULTS

DESKTOP STUDY

The desktop study consisted of analysing various maps for evidence of prior habitation in the study area, as well as for previous archaeological surveys. No national monuments, battlefields, or historical cemeteries are known to occur near the study area. Port St Johns does have several historical buildings, of which are in various states of preservation. The study area used to be known as 1st Beach Campsite/Caravan Park. The park is visible on the 1952 aerial photographs (fig. 4), and on the 1982 topographical maps (fig. 3).

FIG. 4: STUDY AREA IN 1952



No information could be found about when it was first constructed. However, Mrs I. Van Heerden informed me that they used to camp at the 1st Beach Camp Site in the 1940s and that her father had camped there before WW2.

No previous heritage surveys have been undertaken in the Port St Johns area, or are not available on SAHRIS and the internet.

Ships have used the general area as a port up to the 1940s; however, no mention is made of a shipwreck campsite for the affected area.

The area has been rated as “Green” on SAHRIS palaeontological sensitivity map.

FIELD SURVEY

A field survey was undertaken in February 2015. Most of the study area was overgrown by dense vegetation (fig. 5). The study area consists of a flattened area that was the previous camping/caravan site. To the sides are steep slopes, a river. A road runs through the centre that leads to the lighthouse around the corner.

The buildings from the caravan park have been demolished and the broken walls occur in various parts of the study area. It appears as if the area has been used for a sand borrow pit. I surveyed these excavations, and noted the occasional isolated shell. No shell middens, or related artefacts, were observed. Several bottles from the 1960s to the present were noted in various areas.

Much of the area is very disturbed, and any heritage sites that would have occurred, have now been destroyed. No further mitigation is required. If any middens are exposed during construction then it should be reported to the ECO and ECPHRA.

FIG. 5: SCENIC VIEWS OF THE STUDY AREA



CONCLUSION

A heritage survey was undertaken for the proposed Port St Johns Waste Water Treatment Works. The area occurs to the south of the city centre, near the lighthouse. The study area has been affected by previous sand borrow pits that have taken up to 3m – 4m of deposit in places. This has removed any potential heritage deposit. All of the buildings associated with the original 1st Beach Camp Site have been destroyed.

No heritage sites were observed in the study area and no further mitigation is required.

REFERENCES

Raper, P.E.. not dated. **Dictionary Of Southern African Place Names.**
Johannesburg: Lowry Publishers
<http://www.sahistory.org.za/places/pondoland>)